

# INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

## United States Department of Agriculture

*H. Zankiser*

Release - Immediate

Washington, D.C., June 17, 1938

FEDERAL-STATE WILDLIFE  
FUNDS AVAILABLE JULY 1

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The new Federal-State cooperative plan for wildlife restoration gets under way July 1. An appropriation by the last Congress of \$1,000,000 will be used in selecting, restoring, and developing land and water areas approved for State wildlife units, and for research into management problems.

Under the Pittman-Robertson Act - approved Sept. 2, 1937 - Congress may make annual appropriations for these cooperative wildlife projects up to the amount of revenue accruing from the 10 percent Federal tax on firearms and ammunition during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, and each fiscal year thereafter. Such a tax produces about \$3,000,000 annually, but to get the program under way this coming fiscal year Congress appropriated \$1,000,000. The act providing this appropriation stipulates that the expenditures shall not exceed the aggregate receipts from the Federal tax on firearms and ammunition.

Representatives of the U. S. Biological Survey, which will administer the program, have completed tentative Federal-State arrangements. Each State's allotment will be announced shortly. Projects will be passed upon as speedily as possible, and work may be started on approved projects after July 1.

The amount of the appropriation that will be available for a State will depend on the size of the State and the number of hunting licenses sold there. One half of the available funds will be apportioned according to State areas, the other half according to hunting licenses sold.

Participating States will cooperate by providing funds equal to one third of their Federal allotments, and by carrying on the projects in accordance with

Federal standards. A State's participation will follow its assent to the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act and also will depend on its enactment of wildlife-conservation laws, "which shall include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters" for any purpose other than the administration of the State fish and game department.

Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Kansas already have adopted legislation assenting to provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act and have made any changes in State laws needed to permit participation. Governors of 30 other States have formally assented, pending approval, by the next session of the State legislatures.

These States are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, California, and Oregon.

Discussing the new program, Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, said: "The new wildlife program has been laid out in a manner similar to that provided by the Federal Highway Act, and the process of administering it will be similar to that proved effective in carrying out the Federal-State road program.

"The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 paved the way for a Federal program for waterfowl and other migratory birds. In this new program it will be possible for the Federal Government to help the States in restoring and conserving resident and upland, as well as migrant, species. Reforestation, water control, and protection against fire hazards will be included in the program.

"Experience acquired by the Biological Survey in developing and administering Federal wildlife refuges will be available for the assistance of State fish and game departments, and the Bureau's nine regional offices will serve as contacts between the Survey and the States."